

American

NEWS & VIEWS

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Introduction to State Dept. Trafficking in Persons Report 2010

Report marks 10th anniversary of milestones in fight against modern slavery

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Introduction: 10 Years of Fighting Modern Slavery
Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
Trafficking in Persons Report 2010

The 2010 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report marks the 10th anniversary of key milestones in the fight against modern slavery. In 2000, the United States enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), and the United Nations adopted the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, also known as the Palermo Protocol. Since then, the world has made great strides in combating this ultimate exploitation – both in terms of what we know about this crime and how we respond.

The Palermo Protocol focused the attention of the global community on combating human trafficking. For the first time, an international instrument called for the criminalization of all acts of trafficking – including forced labor, slavery, and slavery-like practices – and that governmental response should incorporate the “3P” paradigm: prevention, criminal prosecution, and victim protection. Over 10 years, governments worldwide have made appreciable progress in understanding a number of realities about human trafficking: people are in situations of modern slavery in most countries; trafficking is a fluid phenomenon responding to market demands, weakness in laws and penalties, and economic and development disparities. More people are trafficked for forced labor than for commercial sex. The crime is less often about the flat-out duping and kidnapping of naïve victims than it is about the coercion and exploitation of people who initially entered a particular form of service voluntarily or migrated willingly. Trafficking can occur without movement across borders or domestically, but many countries and commentators still assume some movement is required. Men comprise a significant number of trafficking victims. And traffickers often use sexual violence as a weapon against women to keep them in compelled service, whether in a field, a factory, a brothel, a home, or a war zone.

The “3P” paradigm is an interlocking one. It is not enough to prosecute traffickers if we do not also provide assistance to the survivors and work to ensure that no one else is victimized. No country has yet attained a truly comprehensive response to this massive, ever increasing, ever changing crime. Ten years of focused efforts is the mere infancy of this modern movement; many countries are still learning about human trafficking and the best

responses to it.

Promising practices, task forces, and coordinating bodies’ national plans of action must be implemented on the ground, and local innovations must be supported and amplified by central governments. The vast majority of the millions held in modern slavery have yet to benefit from any progress; every country must do more to fulfill the promise of the Palermo Protocol.

Last year, the world imported and exported billions of dollars in products tainted by forced labor in manufacturing and raw materials procurement, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). Governments knowingly and unknowingly deported trafficking victims and failed to provide victims shelter and reintegration services, which led to undercutting investigations and delaying the rehabilitation of victims. They continued to struggle with poorly constructed immigration laws that increased the vulnerability of migrant populations to trafficking.

When reviewing the trafficking assessment for each country, it is critical to remember that these assessments are based on compliance with minimum standards set forth in the TVPA, as amended – what the U.S. government considers the floor for engagement rather than the ceiling.

Fighting human trafficking is not a static exercise. A trafficking law passed last year must be implemented and improved this year. The lessons learned from last year’s prosecutions should inform and improve this year’s law enforcement response. Wide disparities between numbers of trafficking victims identified and trafficking offenders prosecuted should be reviewed with the goal of improving the capacity of law enforcement responders to deliver justice for victims. Although numbers of trafficking prosecutions and convictions are important indicators of progress, the quality and impact of counter-trafficking law enforcement efforts are more significant.

The missed opportunities for compassionate and effective victim identification must serve as a clarion call to ensure that this year, there is a proactive approach to victim identification and assistance, upholding the Palermo Protocol and the TVPA’s guarantees of justice for every victim.

The 2010 TIP Report is a diagnostic tool reflective of efforts on the ground now. It is neither a condemnation nor a reprieve; nor is it a guarantee of next year’s ranking. Indeed, this year’s report reflects upgrades for 22 countries in recognition of long overdue results and downgrades for 19 countries demonstrating sparse victim protections, desultory implementation, or inadequate legal structures.

Most countries that deny the existence of victims of modern slavery within their borders are not looking, trying, or living up to the mandates of the Palermo Protocol and the demands of our common humanity. There is no shame in addressing a problem of this magnitude; the shame lies in ignoring it.

The United States holds itself accountable to the same standards by which we judge others. For the first time, this year's TIP Report includes a U.S. ranking as well as a full, candid narrative on U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking. The ranking reflects the contributions of government agencies, public input, and independent research by the Department of State. The United States recognizes that, like other countries, it has a serious problem with human trafficking for both labor and commercial sexual exploitation. The U.S. government takes pride in its best practices to combat the crime of trafficking, recognizes challenges, and seeks continual innovation and strengthening of its efforts at home and in partnership with other countries.

[The full report is available on the State Department website in PDF format at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/>]

More Women Ensnared in Human Slavery

United States rates itself for first time in Trafficking in Persons Report

By Jane Morse
Staff Writer

Washington — More women are finding themselves involuntarily trafficked for slave labor, according to the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report released June 14 at the U.S. Department of State.

Women long have been the majority of victims trafficked for sex, but there is evidence that more women are being ensnared in labor trafficking. The "feminization of labor trafficking," according to Luis CdeBaca, the State Department's ambassador-at-large for global human trafficking issues, means that women — like men — are being trapped in fields, factories, mines and restaurants and "often suffering the dual demons of forced labor and sexual assault."

At a June 14 briefing, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said human trafficking "not only exploits and victimizes women and girls, it also fuels the epidemic of gender-based violence around the world."

"Traffickers must be brought to justice," Clinton said at the briefing. "And we can't just blame international organized crime and rely on law enforcement to pursue

them. It is everyone's responsibility — businesses that knowingly profit or exhibit reckless disregard about their supply chains, governments that turn a blind eye or do not devote serious resource to addressing the problem — all of us have to speak out and act forcefully."

The 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) marks the 10th anniversary of key milestones in the fight against modern slavery. In 2000, the United States enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), and the United Nations adopted the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, also known as the Palermo Protocol. Since then, "more countries are updating their laws and expanding enforcement, more criminals are facing prosecution, and more survivors are being helped back into a life of freedom," Clinton said.

Clinton and CdeBaca cited success stories that can serve as models for other countries. For example, Argentina achieved its first conviction under a 2008 anti-trafficking law. Egypt enacted its first comprehensive anti-trafficking law and is starting a rehabilitation center for trafficking victims. Police in Ghana partnered with Interpol to host training for law enforcement officials from across Africa.

Bosnia-Herzegovina pulled itself up from Tier Three (worst rating) to Tier One (best), thanks to strong penalties against traffickers and better care of victims. Pakistan has increased prosecutions against traffickers, especially those for bonded labor, and has moved up to Tier Two. Malaysia moved from Tier Three to Tier Two by working with nongovernmental organizations and the United Nations to identify and aid forced-labor victims. Syria, after languishing on Tier Three for years, moved up to Tier Two by enhancing its anti-trafficking laws, opening a second shelter for victims, and showing more political will to cope with the problem of human slavery.

Despite improvements in dealing with the crime of human slavery, more than 12 million people are trafficked each year worldwide for labor and sex, according to estimates by the International Labor Organization.

This year's Trafficking in Persons Report assesses the anti-trafficking efforts of some 177 governments — and, for the first time, those of the United States, "because we believe it is important to keep the spotlight on ourselves," Clinton said.

Americans "have an involuntary servitude problem now," CdeBaca acknowledged, "just as we always have throughout history. But the American story is one of striving for perfection, the perfection we believe in, and overcoming the great challenges that stand in our way. In striving to become a more perfect union, we will not shrink away from the promise — the promise of freedom

that Abraham Lincoln made almost 150 years ago.”

To raise awareness of the labor trafficking challenges in the United States, the State Department hosted the Florida Modern-Day Slavery Museum. The museum consists of a cargo truck outfitted as a replica of trucks involved in a recent slavery operation in the United States, accompanied by displays on the history and evolution of slavery in the United States.

In 2008, according to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the state of Florida had 47,500 commercial farms using 9.25 million acres (3.75 million hectares). Oranges alone were valued at \$1.5 billion in 2008, 71 percent of the U.S. production. But thousands of field workers are underpaid, and many are enslaved.

Laura Germino, one of the nine individuals from around the world selected as “heroes” for their anti-trafficking efforts, coordinates the Anti-Slavery Campaign for the Florida-based Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a community organization of more than 4,000 migrant farm workers. At the June 14 briefing at the State Department, Germino said, “It takes a whole community to fight slavery.” In the case of enslaved agricultural workers, there is “renewed hope for change, thanks to the growing number of transnational global corporations that have adopted new purchasing policies” that demand zero tolerance in the use of slave labor in their supply chains.

U.S. Aids Victims of Ethnic Violence in Kyrgyzstan

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — The Obama administration wants a coordinated international response to address the ongoing ethnic violence in Kyrgyzstan and is providing humanitarian assistance for the victims, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said.

Speaking to reporters June 14, Crowley said Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke earlier in the day about the situation with the foreign minister of Kazakhstan, which borders Kyrgyzstan, and Crowley affirmed that U.S. officials are maintaining “very close touch” with the Kyrgyz Republic’s provisional government over the situation.

“We, along with other international donors, are in the process of providing humanitarian aid, and we are in discussions with the provisional government regarding their humanitarian requirements,” Crowley said. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert Blake has also reached out to Kyrgyz

authorities to determine if they need any nonhumanitarian assistance.

The United States is looking at how it can work within the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and with countries in the region “to provide assistance and help the provisional government stabilize the situation,” Crowley said.

Violence between Kyrgyz and ethnic Uzbeks, who constitute nearly 1 million of Kyrgyzstan’s 5.5 million people, has raged since June 10 in southern Kyrgyzstan. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), more than 100 people have been killed and more than 1,200 injured since then, and an estimated 80,000 have fled their homes seeking to cross into neighboring Uzbekistan.

The ICRC launched a preliminary emergency appeal June 14 for funding to enable it to help 100,000 victims, according to a June 14 statement by the organization.

ICRC spokesman Pierre-Emmanuel Ducruet said that while the situation in the city of Osh had grown “a little calmer,” nearby Jalal-Abad has grown “very dangerous.” Osh, the second-largest city in Kyrgyzstan, is located in the southern portion of the country; many supporters of former president Kurmanbek Bakiev are concentrated in the area. Bakiev was ousted during civil unrest in April and the interim provisional government took over.

In southern Kyrgyzstan, “some areas are deserted and we believe many people are staying in their homes because they are too scared to leave,” Ducruet said.

At the OSCE’s Annual Security Review Conference in Vienna, Nancy McEldowney, the State Department’s principal deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in Kyrgyzstan and offered condolences to the victims.

“This tragedy is a powerful reminder of the fact that we, the participating states of the OSCE have a responsibility to take all possible action to prevent these types of conflict, and to help resolve them once they occur,” she said.

McEldowney reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to the OSCE, and said she hopes delegates to the security review conference will use the occasion to “discuss, debate and decide upon practical ways to improve and expand the capacity of the OSCE to solve problems and enhance the lives of those who live throughout the OSCE space.”

Scientists Pursue Technologies to Feed Earth's Growing Population

Aquaculture, aseptic processing among advances discussed in webchat

By Phillip C Kurata
Staff Writer

Washington — With the world's population growing by millions every month, several billion more people will need to be fed by mid-century, according to U.N. projections.

Two scientists, one from India, the other from the United States, have developed technologies that will help provide nutrition for the 9 billion people that the United Nations expects will inhabit the Earth four decades from now. To give a sense of the speed of global population growth and the urgency of the food challenge, the number of people on Earth reached 6 billion just before the start of the new millennium. According to the World Bank, 1.4 billion of them subsisted on less than \$1.25 a day. Their numbers will grow dramatically without breakthroughs in food security in the coming decades, according to Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Jacques Diouf.

The scientists, Modadugu Gupta of India and Phillip E. Nelson of the United States, participated in a recent U.S. Department of State webchat on food security issues, sharing insights and practices with people around the world.

TEACH A MAN TO FISH

Gupta won the World Food Prize in 2005 for teaching poor farmers in Asia how to use roadside ditches, ponds and other neglected water bodies to raise fish. Gupta's freshwater fish farming methods, known as aquaculture, have provided millions of rural families in Asia with better nutrition and added income. Gupta's techniques have also improved the environment. Using what was previously considered farm waste, Gupta has taught farmers to recycle it for aquaculture.

In the 1980s, Gupta applied his aquaculture methods to Bangladesh, where two-thirds of the land is flooded by monsoons four to six months a year. Gupta found the rural areas pocked with hundreds of thousands of ditches and ponds, dug by farmers to build elevated earthen platforms so their huts would not be submerged in the seasonal floods. "They were lying fallow, covered by water hyacinth, an obnoxious aquatic weed, and were breeding grounds for mosquitoes," Gupta said.

Gupta taught Bangladesh farmers to increase fish production from 300 kilograms per hectare to more than 5,000 kilograms per hectare in a matter of months. "This has revolutionized rural aquaculture and has led to

improved livelihoods and nutrition of the rural population," he said.

Aquaculture also has transformed the lives of Bangladesh rural women, who previously did unpaid housework and childrearing. Gupta trained the women in aquaculture, and nonprofit organizations offered small loans to help them get started raising fish. "Now about 60 percent of rural fish farmers in Bangladesh are women. So that has resulted in increasing the household income and improved the status of the woman in the house and also in society," Gupta said.

Other Asian countries, India, Vietnam, and Indonesia among them, have adopted Gupta's aquaculture methods with great success, but he has not been able to obtain similar results in Africa. Gupta said his efforts to transplant aquaculture in Africa have "failed" because his methods did not mesh with local social, economic and cultural practices there. He said that he is working on developing aquaculture techniques that are compatible with local African conditions. He did not offer further details.

TEACH A MAN TO PRESERVE HIS FISH

Philip E. Nelson, the American scientist who won the World Food Prize in 2007, said Gupta's work embodies the ancient Chinese proverb, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." Nelson says if the proverb were to embody his own work, it would say, "Teach a man to preserve his fish, and he will feed his village and also make some money."

Nelson was awarded the World Food Prize for his work in food preservation. Nelson's most widely known achievements are in the field of aseptic processing, which involves sterilizing food and packaging it in sterile containers. Boxed juices, milk, and soups that can sit on shelves at room temperature are examples of foods that have undergone aseptic processing. They keep indefinitely without refrigeration and can be transported long distances easily. As a professor of food science at Purdue University in Indiana, Nelson oversees research on preserving a broad range of plant and animal foods.

Nelson explained that food preservation is a complement to production in any campaign to nourish the burgeoning global population. "What I'm focusing on is trying to reduce food loss," Nelson said. "We produce a lot of food that is lost before it is consumed."

Nelson's food preservation work is not closely tied to Gupta's aquaculture work, although the two scientists frequently appear together at scientific forums devoted to food security issues. Nelson does not recommend a single

method of fish preservation, for instance, but said preservation methods will emerge in forms specifically tailored to local areas.

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